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Brazil: Notes On Unemployment, Earnings

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In the first week of November, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) reported that unemployment for the month of September was 3.2%, one of the lowest monthly rates of the 1980s. The IBGE's unemployment measure was based on a survey of the Recife, Salvador, Belo Horizonte, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Porto Alegre metropolitan regions. Next, IBGE figures show that average income for all Brazilians in the labor force in August this year was 14% higher than in August 1988. The breakdown of income improvement by labor force category was as follows: business owners, 34%; owner operators or independent producers, 29%; employees not covered by social welfare legislation, such as temporary or seasonal workers, among others, 14%; and, employees with access to social welfare and other benefits defined in labor legislation, 6%. For the month of October, Sao Paulo state government statistics showed a 0.56% net increase in industrial sector jobs, compared to a 0.92% increase for the month of September. (Basic data from 11/07/89 issue of O Estado de Sao Paulo)

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